

Weekender

Business

Employment items

Unemployment has generally increased over the last 20 years. Employment in service based industries has grown much more rapidly than employment in the goods-producing sector of the economy according to Statistics Canada.

The annual employment rate was under four per cent in 1966 but climbed to a peak of almost 12 per cent in 1983. By early 1986, statistics say the unemployment rate had declined to below 10 per cent.

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All figures to Dec. 31, 1986 with dividends reinvested. 19-year total growth: 1993%. Redemption fee: 4% in year one and reducing to zero over ten years. Any offer made only by prospectus.



Stained-glass artist Anne LeBarr displays the fruits of her labor at her Markham studio. Mrs. LeBarr offers lessons to other hobbyists and repairs custom work. — Brent Lowery

Local enjoys 'glassy' hobby

By PAULA CROWELL
Staff Reporter

Anne LeBarr devotes her time to making windows you can't see through clearly.

The Markham woman is a stained-glass hobbyist who promotes her craft at the local studio she runs, Heritage Glassworks.

Mrs. LeBarr began working in stained glass eight years ago and has been instructing for six years. She ran a studio at her home until last September, but when she moved to the country, she decided to set up shop in town.

During her hours at the studio she works on custom orders for homes and businesses. Her work includes front entrance lamps, indoor lamps, decorative windows and sun catchers — stained glass pieces to hang in a window.

One of the most unusual pieces

she was commissioned to make was a pedestal to showcase a piece of artwork.

"It was interesting because the idea was not to overpower the artwork," she explained.

Mrs. LeBarr also teaches the art of stained glass to a steady stream of students. Her classes are primarily for novices who wish to try out the hobby before investing in equipment they may never use.

For \$85 she provides a two-hour lesson each week for six weeks, as well as all the materials and tools necessary to complete a small window and two sun catchers.

Stained glass work involves cutting ready-colored glass to match a pattern. The shapes of glass are put together by one of two methods.

The most popular way is to join

pieces of glass by applying copper foil with an adhesive backing. Once the pieces are secured together, the copper is welded to the glass permanently.

The less common, traditional method uses lead to join the glass pieces. But Mrs. LeBarr said lead is more difficult to work with and is less durable than copper.

Most of her students who decide to continue with the hobby take another six week workshop after their lessons so they can work on more challenging projects. She said it's not an expensive hobby when considering the price of stained glass articles.

Besides her custom work, Mrs. LeBarr does repairs to stained glass lamps and windows. And for stained glass enthusiasts who already know the craft, she also has a selection of supplies.



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